amount, amount released and progress made during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and upto July, 2000; and

(b) the specific plan taken up to focus tourism potentiality of Maharashtra State at national and international level?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Development and promotion of tourist places is primarily the responsibility of the State Government / Union Territory concerned. However, the Ministry of Tourism provides central financial assistance on the basis of projects prioritised in consultation with them, subject to availability of funds. Accordingly central financial assistance has been provided to Maharashtra for tourism projects covering several places of tourist interest in the State including the tourist spots of Pune, Aurangabad, Sindhudurg, Kolhapur, Raigad, Nagpur and Thane. The details are as follows:

(Rupees in lakhs)

Sl.No.	Year	No. of projects	Amount sanctioned	Amount released
1.	1998-99	18	496.27	174.67
2.	1999-2000	30	1003.69	169.02

For the year 2000-2001, 11 projects have been prioritised at a cost of approximately Rs.1181.00 lakhs.

(b) The Government is attracting foreign as well as domestic tourists by promoting India including the State of Maharashtra through its 18 overseas offices by advertising in print & electronic media, participations in travel fairs, inviting media, and Travel Agents on fam trip, extensive use of IT in tourism promotion.

Poor condition of Nav Nalanda Mahavihar, Nalanda

1066. VEN'BLE DHAMMAVIRIYO: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the condition of the Nav Nalanda Mahavihar has become very bad;

(b) if so, the reasons thearefor; and

(c) whether it is a fact that Non-Indian students are leaving from the Institution?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir. The following Non-Indian students are admitted in Nava Nalanda Mahavihar, Nalanda during the last four academic years:

Sl.No.	Academic Year	No. of students.
1.	1996-97	46
2.	1997-98	46
3.	1998-99	64
4.	1999-2000	78

Financial aid to NGOs for cultural programmes

1067. SHRI KARTAR SINGH DUGGAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount disbursed to NGO's to assist them financially for cultural programmes during the year 1999-2000;

(b) whether any request was received from Musafir Memorial Trust to celebrate Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafir's tricentenary;

(c) if so, the details of amount sanctioned; and

(d) whether it has been disbursed?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Rs. 10,53,97,712/- (Rupees ten crore fifty three lakhs ninty seven thousand seven hundred twelve only).

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Rs. 1,00,000/- (Rupees one lakh only)

(d) Yes, Sir.

NRI investment in tourism sector

1068. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has been working out on a plan to attract more investment by NRIs for development of tourism in the country during the current and next year;